

**In The Specification:**

A marked-up version of the specification showing the amendments is attached hereto as Exhibit A. Matter that has been deleted from the specification is indicated by brackets and matter that has been added is indicated by underlining.

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the first paragraph on page 4, lines 3-13, with the following paragraph:

AI  
In one aspect, the present invention provides particles having a desired magnetic response. The phrase "magnetic response" refers to attractive or repulsive forces as a result of the application of a magnetic field. The magnetic response can be, for example, migration rate or retention time in response to a magnetic field. "Desired" implies that the amount and type of magnetic material associated with the core particle are chosen by the skilled artisan to provide a core particle having a magnetic response suitable to achieve the skilled artisan's preferred end result. The migration rate need not be quantitative (e.g. distance/time), but may be qualitative (e.g., faster or slower than another population of particles). So too, retention time may be quantitative or qualitative. The phrase "population of particles" refers to a set of particles that are similar, for example in magnetic response and other classification parameters (such as fluorescent intensity) where relevant, to the extent they can be identified as belonging to that population.